

properly so called, or in the sense in which the framers of the Constitution understood and intended it. But it may be urged, that the General Assembly acts as a Convention of the people might of right do in reference to such matters. In answer to this argument, I would respectfully submit that neither the Legislature nor a Convention of the people, can *rightfully* take away private property, "unless just compensation be made therefor." The contrary doctrine would be subversive of all justice, destructive of all confidence, and in utter violation of public faith.

I have shown that, by the decision of a Court of as high respectability as any in the Union, an office is the private property of the incumbent for the term for which he is elected, and that neither can its tenure be abridged, nor the right taken away and transferred to another. The doctrine that an office is private property during the period of its continuance, does not, indeed, rest upon the authority of the case referred to, but was clear and well settled law long before that decision was made. The office, whatever it may be, may be *abolished* by the competent authority, whether that authority be the Legislature or a Convention of the people—and this may be done on grounds of public or political expediency, or for any reasons satisfactory to the destroying power. But so long as it is continued, the right to the term of the incumbent is as unquestionable as the title to any other species or description of property.

Not doubting that the General Assembly will do what is right and justice may appertain, in reference to this question, I beg leave, through your Excellency, to submit it to their deliberate consideration. I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

D. P. HOGUE.

REPORT OF THE QUARTER-MASTER GENERAL.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
TALLAHASSEE, November 18, 1852. }

Sir: I have the honor to submit to you my report as Quartermaster General of the State, showing the number and kinds of arms, &c., under my charge and belonging to the State.

Since my last report, I have received into the Armory, from the Jefferson Independent Riflemen, 50 rifles and equipments issued to this Company in 1847; from the Centreville Greys, 94 pistols and holsters, with other equipments, of the 120 issued to them in 1846; and from the City of Tallahassee, 50 muskets, with equipments complete, issued by order in 1850; and have issued to the Major General commanding the Second Division one piece of brass ordnance; (six pounder,) with gun carriage—one four-horse artillery harness, and other equipments belonging to it, complete. Leaving now on hand, 3 pieces of ordnance with all appendages, 259 muskets and equipments, 121 rifles and equipments, and 348 pistols and equip-

ments, in good condition; and 61 muskets, 3 rifles and 11 pistols, broken and otherwise so much injured at the blowing down of the Armory during the storm in October last, as to render them unfit for further use.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. A. SHINE, Quartermaster General.

THOMAS BROWN, Governor of Florida.

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, }
Tallahassee, November 10, 1852. }

To THOMAS BROWN, Governor, &c.:

SIR:—In obedience to law, the undersigned respectfully submits to you his official Report upon the Finances of the State for the last two fiscal years, with some suggestions in regard to the Revenue System.

The receipts at the Treasury during the Fiscal Year ending 31st October, 1851, amount to, viz..... \$84,147 25

From ordinary sources,	
License Tax,.....	\$5,164 54
Auction do.	818 51
Fines,	1,900 09
Revenue of 1846,.....	255 43
" '47,.....	135 77
" '48,.....	1,167 40
" '49,.....	727 69
" '50,.....	40,857 44
" '51,.....	6,114 23

\$57,141 10

To which add amount received in redemption of land, 274 03

" " loan from School Fund, 25,000 00

" " in reimbursement of a

temporary advance from the Contingent Fund to

Quarter Master General, with interest, 1,727 12

Amount received for Room Rent, 5 00

\$84,147 25

The WARRANTS issued during the same period amount to..... \$67,187 73

On account of Fifth General Assembly,.....	\$22,901 07
Salaries,.....	18,804 11
Criminal Prosecutions,	11,877 93
Contingent Expenses,.....	5,772 90
Jurors and Witnesses,.....	1,900 63
Expenses Supreme Court,	1,910 85
Residence for Governor,.....	500 00
Rent of Armory,.....	250 00
State Boundary Line,.....	1,000 00
Land bought in for the State,	414 68
Fines Refunded,	159 18
Taxes do.	486 12
Orphan Fund,.....	478 42
Interest due School Fund,	731 84

\$67,187 73